

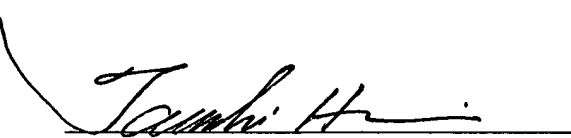
REMARKS:

The Office Action dated June 13, 2006 rejected all of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moles et al in view of Wells et al and further in view of Thompson. The Examiner relied mainly on Moles et al (U.S. Patent No. 7,024,557). Please note that Moles et al does not qualify as prior art against the present application. Moles et al was filed on December 30, 1999. The present application was filed based on Japanese Application No. H11-134895, which was filed on May 14, 1999 in Japan. Applicants already submitted a certified translation of Japanese Application No. H11-134895 on September 26, 2006 to establish the Japanese priority.

For the reasons set forth above, the pending claims are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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